

Credit: Gladys Porter Zoo

# HANDLING DEAD SPECIMENS: IMMEDIATE TRIAGE IN THE CASE OF SICK OR INJURED LIVE SPECIMENS

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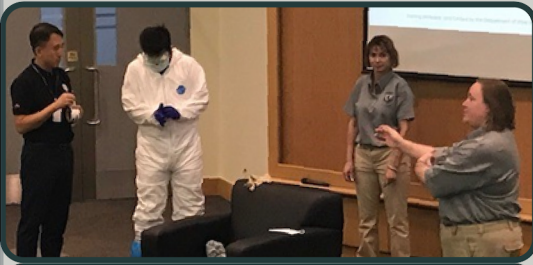


# OBJECTIVES

- SAFETY! - Ensure the safe transportation of all live wildlife while protecting self, public & wildlife from injury/illness - including biosafety.
- Incident Response - minimizing risk & immediate triage.
- The Role of Partnerships
- Handling Dead Specimens



2018 - Smuggled tiger cub southern U.S. Border - sedated for transport, thrown by smugglers during attempted inspection and detention by US Customs and Border Protection.



## Prepare

- PPE, first aid kits & biosafety evidence handling supplies.
- Know who to call



## Inspect

- Inspection and Surrounding area
- Crates and Containers
- Wildlife



## Respond

- Short Term - Immediate care & security
- Long Term - Investigation & policy recommendations

**PREPARE:** Establish relationships & maintain contact lists of:

Partners that can provide veterinary care for live wildlife;

Hospitals, first aid supplies and training for human injury/illness (Picture of PPE doing training).

**INSPECT**

Not just the animal, the surroundings, the container, potential hazards, peoples behavior.

**RESPOND**

Short Term - Immediate care and security

Long Term - Investigation and policy recommendations





# IMMEDIATE TRIAGE

1. SAFETY, SAFETY, SAFETY: Assess & don PPE
2. Isolate container[s]
3. Temperature & Hydration
4. Seek immediate veterinary care.

1. SAFETY - of the animal, of the public, of yourself/team. ALWAYS WEAR MINIMUM PPE of a face mask and gloves at any inspection.

2. (a.) Isolate Containers - If safe and containers are not severely compromised, have container(s) isolated in place or moved to decrease loud noises, fumes, inclement weather, extreme temperatures etc..

(b.) Evaluate Surroundings:

is it safe; what (if any) are the potential hazards;

Any strange behavior by individuals in the vicinity? ;

Given suspected wildlife and possible behaviors, do you want a more open space or enclosed space for inspection?

(c.) Visual Inspection -

examine crates/containers; is there evidence of injury (blood or other bodily fluids not expected to be present);

Note any visual injuries, aggression, responsiveness: Assess overall behavior/stress level of the animal(s);

3. Temperature & Hydration – Assess the wildlife's temperature and hydration needs.

Changes in temperature should be gradual, offer water or hydrating foods if safe to do so and closely monitored.

4. Document - photos of containers, injuries visible, take video ensure to include surrounding inspection area. Assess injuries/illness signs contact local partner, discuss proper/safe transport



and get them there ASAP.

New England  
Aquarium  
Triaging Box  
Turtles  
(*Terrapene sp*)

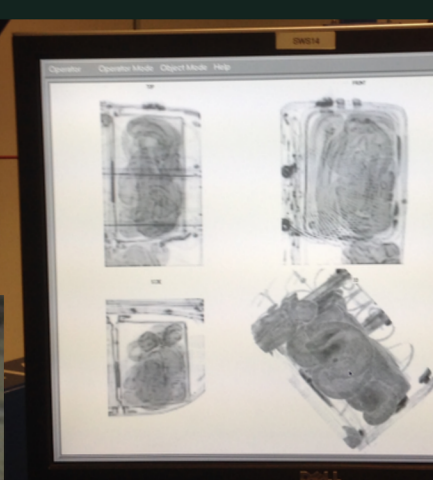


**NO ONE CAN FIGHT  
WILDLIFE CRIMES  
ALONE, PARTNERSHIPS  
ARE KEY**



Shedd  
Aquarium - Live  
*Arapaima gigas*  
care.

# EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED



Partners are critical in responding to injured or ill animals. Sometimes, the best and safest thing for the animals and humans, is to have veterinary staff manage the inspections.

- Venomous King Cobra smuggling.
- Case Study - smuggled reptiles with indications of injuries and defecation as defense mechanism. Shipment brought to local zoo immediately, not inspected at the airport but under safer, controlled and biosecure situation.



# Thank you!

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